

Appl. No. : 09/830,855  
Filed : April 27, 2001

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 7, please amend the fourth paragraph, starting on line 14 and ending on line 16 as follows:

According to a fifth aspect of the invention there is provided a flux composition for use in fire assaying of ore samples, the composition containing sodium hydroxide.

On pages 13-14, please amend the last paragraph as follows:

In a typical example where the temperature profile is kept constant, the melting pot 26 is heated to about 900° and the flux and sample is inserted into the melting pot 26. The coil 48 is supplied with 15-30 kW of electrical energy from the generator 48 for a predetermined first period of time (usually 20 to 30 seconds) to heat the pot to about 1250°C and then dropped to 10 to 12 kW for a predetermined second period of time (usually 20 to 30 seconds), maintaining the temperature of the melting pot at about 1250°C. Thus, fusion of the ore and flux takes from 45 to 90 seconds, generally approximately 60 seconds.

On page 14, please amend the first complete paragraph, starting on line 8 as follows:

If necessary, the sample and flux may be heated at a predetermined varied temperature profile, for example by first heating the flux and sample to about 1250°C for a first period of time (20-30 seconds) to melt the sample and flux and to then ~~decreasing~~decrease the temperature to about 1000°C for a second period of time (20-30 seconds), while the gold and PGMs are collected by the lead.

**IN THE TITLE**

Please amend the Title as follows:

**ASSAYING A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING A SAMPLE FOR ANALYSIS OF PRECIOUS METAL CONTENT**